

# THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

Volume 14, Number 1



## Featured in this issue

- "Machin's Mills" Halfpence
  - Identification
  - Die States
  - Availability
- "Money" of Colonial Merchants
- Good and Bad of eBay





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Volume 14 Number 1

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*Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Roger Moore at the address listed on page 1. Dues are \$20-regular (including 1<sup>st</sup> class mailing of the Newsletter), \$10 for junior members (under 18), \$400 for Life Membership (or 4 quarterly payments of \$100).*

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL, AND IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT CURRENT THROUGH 2006, PLEASE BRING THEM UP-TO-DATE – AVOID MISSING FUTURE C4 NEWSLETTERS!**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(Ray Williams, President)

Hi All,

The last time we were together en masse was at the C4 Convention. As I write this message, the EAC Convention is less than a week away. I hope to see many of you there and anticipate a fun time. The EAC Convention is at the opposite side of the calendar from the C4 Convention and was planned as such to give us two meeting times 6 months apart. But, by the time you read this, the EAC Convention will be just a fond memory.

Chuck Heck is the Convention Chairman and doing a fantastic job. Months ago he was calling to confirm arrangements and make schedules. You gotta love a guy that doesn't wait until the last moment! Until you actually get involved with the planning of a convention, there's no way to comprehend the amount of work that goes into it. Chuck, my hat is off to you!

This is an election year for C4 officer positions. Every two years you have an opportunity to nominate people to run for office. It's an easy thing to do... If you feel you, or someone you know, has the desire and ability to make a positive contribution to C4, just contact our secretary, Frank Steimle, and nominate yourself or another. It's that easy! Even if the person nominated declines to run, it is an honor to be nominated. The person doing the nominating is kept confidential. Time is running out.

The publications committee are, and will continue to be, busy with manuscripts. It's very encouraging to see authors making the effort to finish their works. We can never have too many reference book (regardless of what Diane says!). After EAC is over, we'll start our planning for this year's C4 Convention. Now is the time to start setting aside duplicate coins, or those you've lost interest in, to be consigned to the C4 Auction. It's a lot of work to catalog these auctions and the stress level of our cataloger will be greatly relieved by early submissions!

In case you haven't noticed, we've started publishing the C4 Newsletter in a larger format, as was suggested and voted on at the C4 Membership Meeting in November. The larger format gives more flexibility as to what we can do. Please let Syd Martin know your thoughts on this issue and the new format. While I'm thinking of it, the next time you see Syd, give him a pat on the back and buy him lunch for all the good work he's doing! The most work intensive jobs in C4 are newsletter editor and treasurer. Both Syd and Roger Moore have performed above and beyond!!!

I'll close here and anxiously await comments on the new newsletter. If anyone has questions about, or suggestions for, C4... please contact me. If you just want to talk colonials, my contact info is in the front of this newsletter - make use of it! As Frasier Crane would say, "I'm listening".

Have FUN!  
Ray

## OPEN LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

As we move to a new format for the C4 Newsletter, I wanted to address some concerns to the membership. While I am proud of our newsletter, I am worried that it is beginning to drift towards becoming a journal rather than a newsletter. In my mind, a journal is more academic and more polished, presenting finished research and study results, and polished articles; on the other hand, a newsletter is more informal, presenting thoughts, topics for discussion, interesting "tidbits," news of the club, etc. In numismatics, the Colonial Newsletter (CNL) has, notwithstanding its name, become a journal. Rather than attempting to become another CNL, I believe the C4 Newsletter should remain a newsletter – our community needs a place to air thoughts, keep up with what's going on, present theories that can be challenged, and the like.

I have begun to sense that many of our members are unwilling, or even afraid, to provide inputs to the C4 Newsletter because they are not good enough, or polished enough, or erudite enough, or have enough photos, or whatever. I'd like to suggest that this is not the case – send me anything from a couple of paragraphs to a few pages, with or without photos. It can be a "historical note," a recap of topics addressed at a local C4 meeting, a "letter to the editor" giving your opinion on an earlier article, a new coin find, an interesting anecdote, a request for help with research, club news . . . Of course, I'll accept and encourage more traditional articles as well, particularly when they advance interest in the hobby by presenting new ideas or evoke back-and-forth discussion.

If you look back through our newsletters, the same few authors write a disproportionate number of articles. You have just as much ability, and your thoughts are just as valid. Put pen to paper, and let's get on with creating the best numismatic *newsletter* possible!

Syd Martin  
Editor, C4 Newsletter

2006 is an election year for C4 Officers. Every two years we hold our elections. Nominations for C4 officer positions are presently being accepted by our C4 Secretary, Frank Steimle [fsteimle@aol.com](mailto:fsteimle@aol.com). You could nominate yourself or someone that you think could do a good job. Many of the officers have been working actively in their positions for more than a decade. New faces have new ideas and enthusiasm... please give it some thought. The people making nominations are kept confidential and the person nominated is not obligated to accept. C4 is a club run by volunteers, and it's their love of this hobby that keeps C4 the productive organization it is. Please give it some thought.

## A NEW (and Long Overdue) GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF MACHIN'S MILLS HALFPENCE

(Jack Howes)

Machin's Mills items, as they are commonly known, are hotly contested these days on the colonial coins section of eBay. But a large percentage of the listings that purport to be Machin's Mills are not. [Note: Figures appear at the end of article.]

"1778 Georgivs—Machon Mills—True Colonial—True Auction," goes a typical eBay listing of an item (Figure 1). Captain Thomas Machin's name has been associated with coppers from his mills located near Newburgh, New York since Crosby<sup>1</sup>. Numismatic research of this period of time has uncovered many more varieties of coppers that are included under the Machin name. This research<sup>2</sup> and further current work on defining families of counterfeit halfpence has concluded this series would be better named the Atlee family, as not all of the varieties included in this series are believed to have been struck at Machin's Mills. The common thread is James Atlee.

Figure 2 is another example of many, many listings on eBay that are inaccurate and often intentionally deceptive. This is likely due for a number of reasons. First, it is a specialized area and not enough people who sell these coins take the time to study the area in the depth required to accurately attribute varieties. This includes not only eBay dealers but also others, like grading services and auction firms, who should be more informed. There are instances of slabbed counterfeit British halfpence misattributed as Machin's Mills pieces. These have shown up in auctions with no one at the auction firm catching the error.

Secondly, it appears some, maybe even a lot, of eBay dealers want to call any British halfpenny a counterfeit or better yet a Machin's Mills thinking that will somehow help get a better price for the item, regardless of what type of coin is actually being auctioned.

In defense of dealers who make honest mistakes, reference material for this family of circulating counterfeit British halfpence is difficult to find. There is limited electronic (web based) information. The Notre Dame colonial web site run by Dr. Louis Jordan<sup>3</sup> is a good source of reference material but not the first place an eBay seller looks. Printed material is even more difficult to come by ( e.g. *Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins*<sup>4</sup>, is good, but hardly complete, in this area and is long out of print). Common references like the *Red Book*<sup>5</sup> and other similar consumer oriented value guides give, at best, a condensed treatment to colonial series in general. Often what is printed is not only limited but wrong (Figure 3 – *2005 North American Coins and Prices*) -- no 1785-dated halfpence have been attributed to Machin's Mills.

Some of these types of listings are quite funny. One dealer who has sold thousands of items on eBay listed something he called, "1775 Colonial--Sharp Problem Free F12--Vachon Mills," (Figure 4). This was merely a common British type counterfeit halfpence, worth maybe \$10. Someone bid \$52. Not bad for a Vachon's Mills item!

Finally, there are those who sell on eBay who likely know they are wrong but don't care. No amount of reference material, no matter how easily obtained, no matter how clear, will affect what these individuals will do. In an auction from Jan 2006, a seller was convinced he had a "1776 Machin' Mills small date CEORCIVIS KEY DATE." His description was a treat to read (Figure 5). Several knowledgeable C4 members sent this person detailed information (including this author) including images of a real Vlack 9-76B, but he concluded he was right and that was that. This happens often enough that most of the eBay fanatics have stopped trying to educate these kinds of sellers.

This new identification guide is one attempt to begin making better visual guides available so those who care can identify these interesting coppers as accurately as present understanding allows -- whether they are buyers or sellers.

This is an evolving area. The most recent plates of the Atlee family, of circulating counterfeit British halfpence, were created by Robert Vlack about thirty years ago. They are available on-line at the Notre Dame web site but it takes some digging to find them. Since those plates were created, several additional varieties have been discovered and considerable research has been published. The Vlack plates were a significant effort but an updated set of plates for this series is long overdue.

New plates of the Atlee family have been developed and a limited set of archival prints made for the 2004 C4 Convention. These plates are arranged into four groups plus a miscellaneous group that is no longer associated with James Atlee but has been included here for continuity with previous work. The groups are the result of analysis by Trudgen<sup>2</sup> of die and letter punch linkages. Trudgen linked each group to the broader context of the state coinages. These groups have held up well over time and seem to be stable. Group One halfpence are associated with James Atlee before he joined the operation at Newburgh, New York (Machin's Mills) probably while working in the New York City area. There are punch linkages to the Connecticut series, in particular the 1786 Miller 1-A. Group Two halfpence are stylistically James Atlee but punch linked to Bailey-Brasher, who also operated in New York City. Atlee likely worked with Bailey prior to joining the Machin's group later in 1787. Group Three is Atlee at Machin's Mills. Stylistically these evolved from the work in New York City and are very distinctive and easily recognizable. Group Three is die linked to both Connecticut and Vermont issues. Group Four consists of mules that further link Group One to other state and pattern issues for New York State -- the 9-87NY and the 15-85NY.

These new Atlee family plates are reproduced below and are immediately followed by the figures.

<sup>1</sup> Crosby, Sylvester S., *The Early Coins of America*, Boston:1875

<sup>2</sup> Trudgen, Gary A., "James Atlee's Imitation British Halfpence," *The Colonial Newsletter*, 27 (March 1987, serial no. 75) pp. 966-979. See also:

Trudgen, Gary A., "Name Change," *Penny-Wise*, Vol XXI (May 1987) pp. 298-299.

<sup>3</sup> Jordan, Louis, "*The Coins of Colonial and Early America*," University of Notre Dame, Department of Special Collections, <http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCoin/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> Breen, Walter, *Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins*, Doubleday/FCI Press, 1988, pp. 97-99.

<sup>5</sup> Yeoman, R.S., *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, Western Publishing Co, Inc:1993



# Counterfeit English Halfpence Struck in Early America

## An Identification Guide to Atlee family types (Machin's Mills)

### Group One, associated with James Atlee, New York City<sup>1</sup>



Notes for Group One (Group One is chronologically first, Group Four is last):

1. Trudgen divided Group One into a main group and a subgroup. The subgroup has two members, 2-71A and 9-76B. See Gary Trudgen's article in the Colonial Newsletter (CNL), "James Atlee's Imitation British Halfpence," March 1987, pages 968-979. Another good reference site is the University of Notre Dame at [www.coina.nd.edu/ColCoin](http://www.coina.nd.edu/ColCoin). This plate is laid out in what Trudgen suggested was the sequence of die emission reading left-to-right, top-to-bottom. The numbering system was originally developed by Robert Vlack and published on two plates in 1974. The numbering scheme is always obv- rev e.g., 4-75A. Two varieties on this plate were identified after the 1874 Vlack plate. 24-72C in 1981 and 4-71D in 1988. R-< on the plates are indications of rarity, R1-R8, updated from Ed Sarrafian's data as of 8/2004. Numbers under the rarities indicate the number of known specimens.

2. Images used with permission from: McCawley & Grellman C4 Albany auction, 3-74A; Gary Trudgen, 2-71A, 4-75A. 5. 7; Roger Siboni, 6-76A; C4 Photo files, 71B, 72A, 72B, 24-72C. 5. 8, 9-76B; J.L. Howes, 71C; Coin Rarities, 71D.

Version 2.0, Plate #1, notes, layout & compilation by J. L. Howes

## Counterfeit English Halfpence Struck in Early America

An Identification Guide to Atlee family types (Machin's Mills)

Group Two associated with Bailey-Brasher, New York City<sup>1</sup>



1. J.L. Howes
2. Roger Siboni
3. Gary Trudgen
4. McCawley & Grellman  
2000 C4 Convention  
Sale

1. J.L. Howes
2. Roger Siboni
3. C4 Photofiles, Mike Ringo
4. McCawley & Grellman  
2003 C4 Convention  
Sale, Lot #634

Sources for Images

## Group Four mules associated with Machin's Mills<sup>2</sup>



1. J.L. Howes
2. Neil Rothschild
3. Coin Rarities
4. Exhibition of U.S. and  
Colonial Coins, ANS, 1914,  
Plate 8.

1. Colonial Coin Exhibition,  
ANS, 1914.
2. Neil Rothschild
3. Coin Rarities
4. McCawley & Grellman,  
C4 Convention Sale 2003,  
Lot #630

1. S.S. Crosby, Early Coins of  
America, Plate VIII, #7
2. S.S. Crosby, Early Coins of  
America, Plate VIII, #5
3. Early American,  
Dana Linetti

### Notes for Groups Two and Four:

1. Group Two has been punch linked by Trudgen to the Brasher doubloon, Nova Eborac coppers, Excelsior patterns and New Jersey running fox coppers. They all exhibit the same distinctive Xs, Es, and numeric punches. 17-87E was not on the 1974 Vlack plate; discovered 1977. 2. Group Four is punch linked to Group One. Obverse 9 is also used with 76B. Many of these dies were created prior to the start of operations at Machin's Mills.

Version 2.0, Plate #2: Notes, Compilations & Layout, J.L. Howes 2004



# Counterfeit English Halfpence Struck in Early America An Identification Guide to Atlee family types (Machin's Mills) Group Three, James Atlee at Machin's Mills, Newburgh, NY



## Notes:

1. Note the sequence of use of the Miller D reverse die. First used with Connecticut Miller 1788 2-D then Vlack (Machin's Mills) 13-88CT, and finally Miller 1788 16.1-D. This is from the progressive die breaks seen in later usage on 16.1-D. It clearly shows whoever was making these types was also making Connecticut. This group is also directly linked to the Vermont coinage via VT-87C (Ryder 13). It is also strongly linked via Ryder 27 which was clearly engraved/designed by same person who created other Group Three dies. There are also many other strong style links to other Connecticut varieties that are not shown on this chart e.g. 87 M.3-G.1, 88 M.4.1-B.1, 88 M.4.1-K, 88 M.4.2-R, 88 M.5-B.2. All 88 CTs are attributed to Machin's Mills.

Version 2.0, Plate #3: Notes, Layout & Compilation by J. L. Howes, 2004

# Counterfeit English Halfpence Struck in Early America

## An Identification Guide to Atlee family types (Machin's Mills)

Vlack attributions but no longer associated with James Atlee or Machin's Mills



1. Tom Rinaldo
2. Robert Vlack, 1974 Plate
3. Breen, "Complete Enc. of US and Colonial Coins", ECI Press, Doubleday
4. Ibid

1. Tom Rinaldo
2. Robert Vlack, 1974 Plate
3. Breen, "Complete Enc. of US and Colonial Coins", ECI Press, Doubleday

Sources for Images

## Late Die States (from Groups Two & Three)



1. McCawley & Grellman C4 Convention Sale, 2000 - Albany Auction (Ringo)
2. Ibid
3. Ibid
4. McCawley & Grellman C4 Convention Sales, 1995, 2003

1. McCawley & Grellman C4 Convention Sale, 2000 - Albany Auction (Ringo)
2. Eric Newman, "American Circulation of English & Buntown Halfpence", *Studies on Money in Early America*, ed. Newman/Doty, ANS (New York), 1976

## Known Overstrikes

### Notes:

1. While no longer considered a product of either James Atlee or Machin's Mills, these varieties are still believed to have been struck in America. A 14-84A was found as part of the Beach-Grunthal hoard (John M. Kleeburg, "Reconstructing the Beach-Grunthal Hoard of Counterfeit Halfpence: The Montclair, New Jersey (1922) Hoard", *AJN* 7-8, New York, 1995-96. Another was found in the ground in 2003 by Gary West near Newark, Maryland in Worcester county along with a number of other contemporary counterfeits. Breen referred to CT-86A as also Miller 2.4-U which should be corrected to 2.6-BRI.

Version 2.0, Plate #4: Notes, Layout & Compilation by J. L. Howes, 2004



1778 Georgivs-Machon Mills- Colonial-True Auction

This is a nice example of a rarer coin to locate. The coin has Good to very good details with a better than average planchet. The coin has a few light reverse scratches with no other real problems. Solid collector coin.



Figure 1

**Early Colonial US Coin 1772 Machin's Mills NY**

You are signed in



[Go to larger picture](#)

Current bid: **US \$29.99**

[Place Bid >](#)

Time left: **2 days 6 hours**

7-day bidding

Ends Nov-26-04 12:41 PM EDT

Start time: **Nov-19-04 12:47:18 PST**

History: **1 bid** [US \\$29.99](#) (starting bid)

Early Colonial Coin US, decent condition considering age! 1772 Date is readable! Front shows a woman sitting on a throne with a branch in her hand and the other side is a portrait of someone. From Machin's New York! Great Coin for any collection!!



Figure 2



Figure 3

← [Back to list of items](#)    Listed in category: [Coins US > Colonial](#)

**1775 Colonial—Sharp Problem Free F12—Vachon Mills**

Item number: 8375530402

[Email to a friend](#)

**Bidding has ended for this item**  
If you are a winner, [Sign in](#) for your status.

[Let an item go](#) or [buy a similar item](#) below

Winning bid: **US \$52.15**

Ended: [View details](#) 14:40:45 PST

Start time: Jan-19-06 14:49:45 PST

History: [View details](#) 14:49:45 PST

Winning bidder: (8)

Item location: Beautiful New Hampshire

Ships to: United States

Shipping costs: US \$3.50 — US Postal Service First Class Mail®

[See shipping and handling details](#)

Enlarge picture

**Seller information**

(5368 ☆) [View profile](#)

Feedback Score: 5368

Positive Feedback: 99.8%

Member since May-13-00 in United States

[Read feedback comments](#)

[Add to Favorite Sellers](#)

[Ask seller a question](#)

[View seller's other items](#)

**Description**

1775 Colonial—Sharp Problem Free F12—Vachon Mills

Figure 4

[Back to list of items](#)Listed in category: [Coins](#) > [Coins: US](#) > [Colonial](#)**1776 Machin' Mills small date CEORCIVIS KEY DATE!****F/VF \$4,000-\$9,000 value!**

You are signed in

[Larger Picture](#)Starting bid: **US \$1,000.00**[Place Bid >](#)Time left: **2 days 23 hours**

3-day listing, Ends Jan-05-06 12:19:50 PST

Start time: Jan-02-06 12:19:50 PST

History: [0 bids](#)Item location: San Juan, Texas  
United States

Featured Plus! Listing

Ships to: Worldwide

Shipping costs: **US \$13.00 -- US Postal Service Express Mail®**  
Other shipping services available

This is truly a unique find! If you turn to page 64 in your 2006 Red Books, you will find the detail that I am about to share with you. The visuals of the Machin Mills coins are displayed at the top of the page in three different types, Group 3 being the most common. However, the coin I am offering here falls under group one. You can tell this easily by the position of the date as it runs parraell to the double bar above it, and by the foot that extends out of the dress. As you can see by the Picture, the "CEORCIVS" is present as well as the "C" 's in Geogivs do not extend back in, thus leaving a "c" appearance. You can also see by the visual of Group 1 that the date falls under the small date category.

I believe the coin I am offering is in even better condition than the one in the redbook, as you can clearly see the details of the shield, the every detail of bust's shirt, and the sitting lady's dress down to the lines in her blouse. There is patina present on this coin that does hide some of the details of the face of the bust on this coin, but during my classes I learned that Patina only increases the value of the coin as it proves authenticity. If you wish, you can choose to have it professionally cleaned to bring out the details of the face, however, I suggest you don't as any minor mistake would deminish the value of this coin.

In Good condition, this coin trends \$800.00. After looking at several examples of coins from the Machin Mills era, this one inparticular surpasses that grade by far. VG goes on as described that you should see some detail in the bust's shirt, as well as some detail outlining the lady's robe. This would come at a value of \$1,800.00. But once again, this coin surpasses these minimum criteria. In Fine condition, you should be able to see clear design of the bust's shirt and hair; definition of a clearly visible spear, dress, flowers, and shield (this includes design on shield). This paticular coin in this condition value tends \$4,000.00. To be conservative I believe this coin falls under this category.

The only reason why this coin may not be graded higher is due to that fact that there is patina on that face of the bust, but under magnification you can see some facial details. If the patina was not there, this coin would easily grade as a VF at a value of \$8750.00. Just look at the condition of the rest of the coin. It only makes sense.

To those who aren't familar with colonials, the grading of these are not like those of morgans or more commonly collected coins as the age of this coin is much older. If one has a VF version of this coin with same detail as a VF morgan, it would be worth in the hundreds of thousands.

Figure 5

## AN 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MERCHANT'S DILEMMA

A Summary of the presentation given at the Colonial Coin Collectors Club Annual  
Convention in Boston, 18 November 2005

(Leo Shane)

Buying and selling goods in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century was very different than it is today. There were no dollar bills, no quarters, nickels and dimes like there are today. For many household purchases such as food and clothing, merchants and store owners accepted payment in goods (country pay) as well as coins and tokens. Paper currency issued by the colonies and later the states and issues of Continental Currency were also accepted. While some of the paper currency of the states held their value, Continental Currency was severely discounted until it became worthless. The phrase "Not worth a Continental" relates to this paper currency.

Southampton Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> 1768	
Paid to William Bateman for 6 Days in Mill	0 12 0
Recd of Samuel Smith of the Stand of Jos.	
Start Egg for 6 59 1 24 Flour a 15/6 and	
27 Nov 1768 in full	16 15 9
Sold Samuel Seaton to E. Middlings at 14/3	0 37 6
18 <sup>th</sup>	
Recd for to E. Middlings	0 3 10
Sold to Robert Blacksmith 3 peck shortwads	0 18
Paid Joseph Riddis for 3 1/2 quarts Wh. 2 1/2 1/6	1 0 6 1/2
19 <sup>th</sup>	
Paid for Wh. a follows - To Jonathan Smith	
for 20 1/2 1/6 a 1/6	\$ 6 11 0 1/2
To David Brown for 13 1/2 1/6 a 1/6	2 3 6
	10 14 6 1/2
Sold Joseph Evans 1 Bushel Buckwheat	0 2 1/2
Recd for 1/2 arable flour sack saved in rear	0 0 3
Paid to Isaac Proctor Junr for halibut 2 1/2 1/6	
from to Evan Thomas 1/2 1/6 a 1/6	1 2 0

Rather than accepting immediate payment, more often than not, merchants kept "day" books or books of account where credit was extended to be settled sometime in the future. Figure 1 shows a copy of a page from the "daybook" of Joseph Hart of Southampton PA. Hart was a prominent businessman in the Philadelphia area during the time. He was also a patriot and later became a Colonel during the Revolutionary War in the army of George Washington. On this page of his daybook, we see that on 15 Oct. 1768 he paid William Bateman 12 shillings for 6 days labor in the mill. There is no entry for 16 Oct. being a Sunday but on Monday 17 Oct., he received a payment for a previous debt from Samuel Smith. The flour he accepted is an example of "County Pay".

**Figure 1:**  
A page from the "daybook" of Joseph Hart



The coins most often used for day to day purchases in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century included British Halfpennies, counterfeits and their equivalents. Copper coins, valued at a halfpence, which circulated included; coins issued by various states, private tokens and even patterns of copper coins which their makers hoped would be adopted by our new nation or its states. Figure 2 shows us examples of some of the coins that circulated as British Halfpence Equivalents.



**Figure 2: Copper coins that circulated as halfpence equivalents**

Included in Figure 2 are coins of the colonies of New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut. (A Vermont coin is also shown even though Vermont was an independent republic at the time of minting but eventually became the 14<sup>th</sup> state in the union.) The slide also shows speculative private issues, the Nova Constellatio and Wood's Hibernia pieces. The Virginia Halfpenny shown is in a category by itself being a coin produced in 1773 by the British Crown specifically for use in the Colony of Virginia. All of these coins were used in commerce and circulated at the value of a British Halfpence.

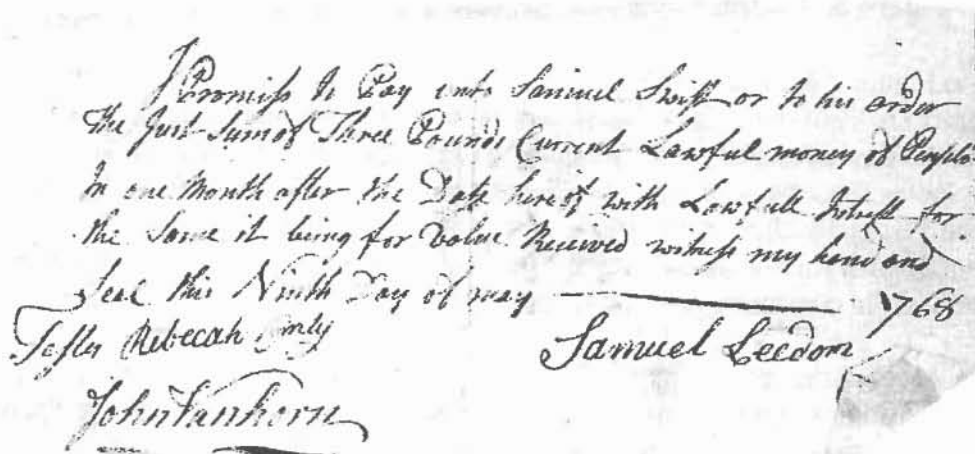
Spain was an economic power in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in large part because of its abundant gold and silver mines in the "New World". As a result, silver coins, mostly the Spanish dollar and its fractions were also common in small value 18<sup>th</sup> Century commerce. The Spanish Dollar was also cut into parts which circulated as small change for parts of a dollar. This was a common practice in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and "Cut Pieces" were a normal part of commerce.

Books and other information are available to illustrate currency and coins of 18<sup>th</sup> Century America. The most popular and a great starting point for anyone interested in the period is the Redbook. (A Guide Book of United States Coins edited by R.S. Yeoman and Kenneth Bressett). This book, which is published and updated annually, contains an entire section on coins used during the Colonial and Confederation era of the United States.

While halfpennies and small denomination Spanish silver pieces were the staple of small commercial transactions, what about larger transactions such as the purchase of a horse, a plow or even a house? These transactions and those among merchants, suppliers and ship owners involved much larger values. Counting out hundreds of halfpennies or small value silver coins is not very convenient or practical. Merchants more often than not used credit, extended for anywhere between 2-3 months to a full year.

Various sources estimate that 50 to 75% of the total American commerce of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was done on the basis of credit. The remaining 25 to 50% was conducted using promissory notes from prominent businessmen such as Robert Morris, “financier of the American Revolution”, currency issued by various governments, bills of credit or coins. The coins, of course, had to be in values much larger than those used for day to day transactions.

Figure 3 shows a Promissory Note from businessman Samuel Leedom to another businessman by the name of Samuel Smith. It is a handwritten note which starts out with the words, “I Promise to pay unto Samuel Smith or to his order, the just sum of Three Pounds Lawful money of England.” Promissory Notes did not have to be issued by a government or some other agency. They were simple documents by an “honorable” businessman, with his signature and seal attached and witnessed by others. These witnesses were also “honorable” businessmen who also signed the document.



**Figure 3: Promissory Note from Samuel Leedom to Samuel Smith**

With the exception of a limited number of silver coins of Massachusetts (shillings and its fractions), the colonies/states issued no large value coins suitable for these larger commercial transactions. To make matters worse, England did not allow its gold and silver coins to be exported to the colonies in North America. It followed the prevailing economic theory of the time that a nation's colonies should be suppliers of raw materials to the mother country. Control of all trade and manufacturing should remain in “parental” control.

**WHEREAS** Gold and Silver, since the Emission of Paper-Money, has not been current among us at any fixed or certain Rate; which has been of great Disadvantage to the Trade and Commerce of this Province: For remedying this Evil for the future, WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, from and after the Date hereof, give publick Notice, and do severally oblige ourselves and promise, that we will receive in all Payments, the *English* Guineas at *Thirty-four Shillings*, French Guineas at *Thirty-three Shillings and Six-Pence*; *Moyders* at *Forty-three Shillings and Six-Pence*, the large *Portugal* Pieces at *Five Pounds Fifteen Shillings*, and so in Proportion for all other lesser *Portugal* Gold Coins; *Dutch* or *German* Ducats at *Fourteen Shillings*, the *German* Pieces called *Carolines* at *Thirty-four Shillings*, *Arabian* Chequins at *Thirteen Shillings and Six-Pence*, all milled *French* Pistols at *Twenty-six Shillings and Six-Pence*, all *Spanish* Pistoles, weighing not under *Four-penny* Weight and *six* Grains, at *Twenty-seven Shillings*, and all Sorts of Gold Coin, of whatsoever Denomination, not before-mentioned, after the Rate of *Six Pounds Five Shillings* per Ounce; *French* Silver Crowns, and *Spanish* milled Pieces of Eight at *Seven Shillings and Six Pence*, and all good coined *Spanish* Silver at *Eight Shillings and Six-Pence* per Ounce. A N D we do further promise and declare, that we will not directly or indirectly allow any more for Gold and Silver than at the Rates herein-mentioned, nor will we ask, demand or receive any more from any Persons whatever for any Sums we pay, receive or exchange of the above specified Gold and Silver Coins; And we consent to have this Agreement to be in Force for *Three Years*, from the Date hereof; and to be published in the News-Paper.

IN TESTIMONY of our Willingness to comply and agree to the above Engagement we have hereunto subscribed our Names this First Day of September 1742.

• Clement Plunsted,	Andrew Hamilton,	David Francis,
Thomas Lawrence,	William Moore,	Patrick Baird,
John Inglis,	Peter Robertson,	Joseph Redmond,
William Allen,	George Elliott,	James Boyden,
Peter Baynton,	Peter Bord,	William Humphreys,
Samuel McCall,	Joseph Sims,	Samuel Neave,
James Hamilton,	Thos. Lawrence, jun.	John Hopkins,
William Tilk,	Nathan Levy,	Charles H'ell,
John Wallace,	Joseph Shippen,	William Caspers,
Edward Shippen,	Aitwood Skute,	Samuel H'ings,
Charles Wising,	Richard Nixon,	Syn-Ford Laraher,
Joseph Turner,	John Seymour,	John Sober,
Peter Kack,	Richard Hockley,	Thomas Hoptinson,
Samuel Perry,	Robert Walecy,	James Macky,
Aurubum Joylor,	Alexander Graydon,	Benj. Schoemaker,
William Peters,	Peter Turner,	Matthias Aspdon,
Jospar McCall,	Anneley & Lewis,	Johannes Ruff,
John Tenet,	Vander Spiegel,	William Spafford,
Samuel Forwel, jun.	Townsend White,	John Ryan,
William Bell,	John Bleakley,	Walter Goodman,
Samuel Hufel,	Samuel Morris,	John Gilleylen,
Caleb Emerson,	John Harrison,	George Ohill,
Richard Peters,	Evan Morgan,	George Entrichen,
	Samuel Harnard,	Thomas Bayeux,
• Carolines ex-	William Biddle,	Davey & Carfan,
cept 1.	John Biddle,	John Hyatt.

Gold and silver coins of various foreign nations (chiefly Spain, Portugal, France and the Netherlands) filled the American colonies need for larger denomination coins for commercial transactions. These coins found their way into 18<sup>th</sup> Century Colonial American commerce and maintained legal tender status after our new nation was formed. It wasn't until the 21 Feb 1857 act of US Congress when they could no longer be used to pay public debts. There were a number of sources by which these coins entered circulation.

These included;

- What Immigrants brought with them
- From Soldiers stationed in America to guard the Colonies or fight wars
- From Pirates and Privateers coming to port cities
- Trade with the West Indies "Sugar Islands"
- Trade with other nations

Although the quantity of foreign gold and silver coin was probably never great, enough commerce was conducted so that Colonial Legislatures such as Massachusetts (1750) established rates of exchange for circulating foreign gold and silver coin and assays were authorized by our new federal government. Sometimes, merchants would agree among themselves on the value at which they would accept foreign gold and silver coins and publish their agreement in a local newspaper. Figure 4 shows us an agreement published in the 16 Sept 1742 issue of the Pennsylvania Gazette. It lists foreign gold and silver coins and the values agreed upon, followed by a statement that "this agreement be in force for three years from the date hereof". The names of 75 businessmen involved in the agreement are listed at the bottom of the article.

Figure 4:  
Announcement in PA Gazette 16 Sept 1742

Businessmen and banks also published guide books with tables and charts to help merchants determine the value of foreign gold and silver coins. Names of some of these guide books include;

- The Ready Reckoner (Daniel Fenning)
- The Universal Cambist
- Father Abraham's Almanack (Abraham Weatherwise)
- The American Negotiator
- A Pocket Almanack (R. Saunders, Printed by Ben Franklin in Phila.)

Figure 5 shows the first page of a "Ready Reckoner" published in the year 1789. Among the contents of the book listed on this page is "A Table showing the weight and value of Gold and Silver, as they now pass in Pennsylvania and New York".

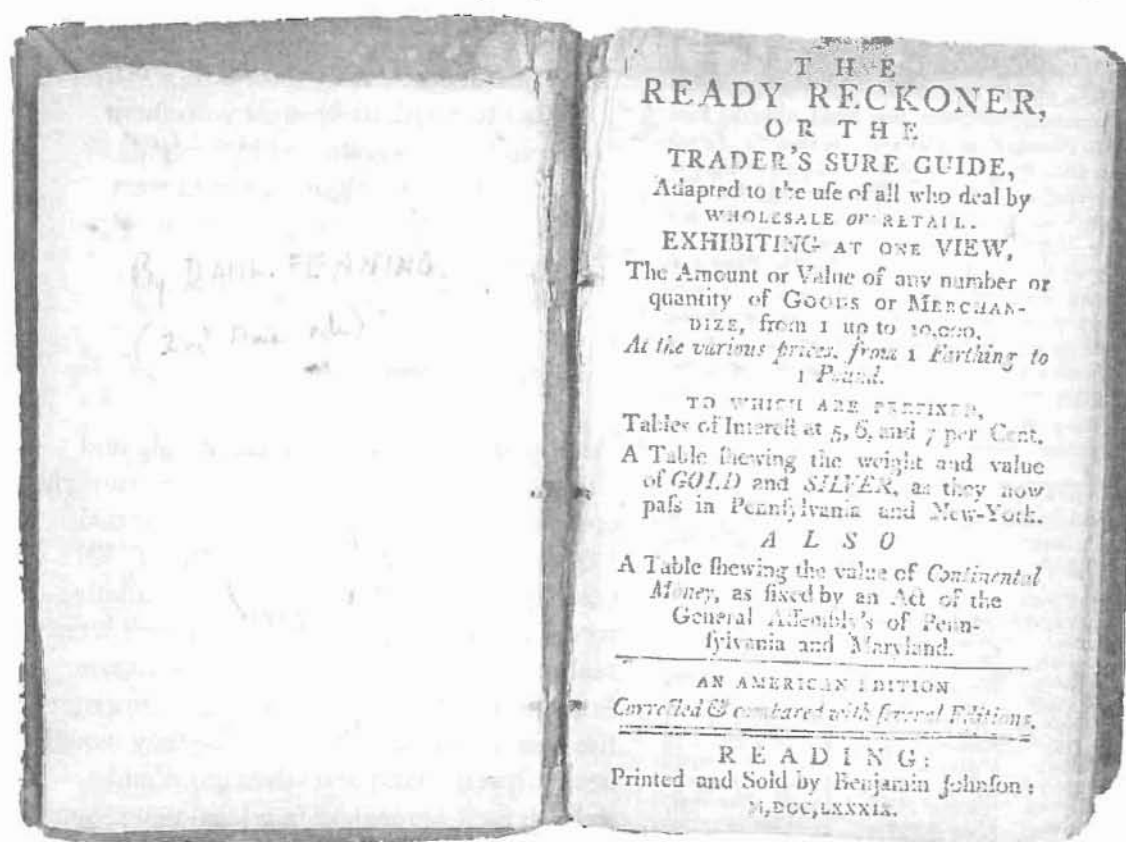


Figure 5: Cover page of "The Ready Reckoner" published in 1789

Copies of coin value tables are seen in books and on websites which discuss this era of our history. Many times they are reprinted from one of the guidebooks mentioned above. Figure 6 shows the table from the "Ready Reckoner" published in 1789, which I am fortunate to own. It shows a list of foreign gold and silver coins as well as their weights and value in the colonies (states) of New York and Pennsylvania. Tables in other books and almanacks show values in other colonies (states) and sometimes the value in London.



A TABLE of the WEIGHT and VALUE of COINS, as the now pass in Pennsylvania and New York.

	Pennsylvania.	N. York.	Wt.
	l. s. d.	l. s. d.	dt. gr.
ENGLISH Guineas, at	1 15 0	1 17 4	5 6
French ditto,	1 14 6	1 16 4	5 5
Moidores,	2 5 0	2 8 0	6 18
Johannes,	6 0 0	6 8 0	18 0
Half ditto,	3 0 0	3 4 0	9 0
Doubloons,	5 12 0	5 0 0	17 0
Carolines,	1 15 0	1 16 0	6 5
French milled Pistoles,	1 7 0	1 8 0	4 4
Spanish ditto,	1 8 0	1 10 0	4 6
English Crowns,	0 8 4	0 8 9	19 0
French ditto,	0 8 4	0 8 9	19 0
Spanish Dollars,	0 7 6	0 8 0	17 6

**Figure 6: Table of Foreign Gold and Silver Coins with values and Weights**

In an effort to “lure” gold and silver coins to their area, American Colonies typically valued coins at a higher rate than that of London. Thus, a Spanish dollar that was worth 5 Shillings in London, was valued at 7,6 (7 shillings and 6 pence) in Pennsylvania. Individual colonies also valued money differently for the same reason.

In the chart, the symbol “l” represents British Pound Sterling while “s” stands for shillings and “d” for pence. (12 pence = 1 shilling, 20 shillings = 1 pound). Weights are given as “dt” (pennyweights) and “gr” grains. (24 grains = 1 pennyweight). In today’s terms grams and grains are most often used. (1 gram = 15.43 grains)

I have always been fascinated when I saw one of these charts. I know what an English Guinea is but what is a French Guinea? Most of us have heard of Spanish Doubloons but if you look in books on Spanish coins, there is no denomination named “Doubloon”. What coin is this chart referring to? Even more puzzling is what is a Moidore or a Johannes? They are all specific coins recognized by the merchants of 18<sup>th</sup> Century America, yet most people today have never heard of them. The fact is, they are “slang” terms that were used much like we use the term “nickel” today to designate a 5 cent coin.

One great advantage in the hobby of coin collecting is that we can collect what interests us and define our collection as we wish. Because of my fascination with 18<sup>th</sup> Century America and these guidebook charts of foreign gold and silver coins, a few years ago, I decided to focus on this area of coin collecting. I first needed to research which coins would qualify for those on the chart in my Ready Reckoner. Next I wanted to understand a little about them such as why they were called something other than their official denomination. Finally, I wanted to collect an example of each one of them.

The balance of this paper will focus on each of the coins listed in the table of the 1789 Ready Reckoner. Specifically listed is: what they are, a little about their history, and the coin I have selected to place in my collection to represent them. I have also included a few examples of what each coin could buy. All values listed are in Pounds, Shillings and Pence. For example, 1,17,4 means 1 Pound, 17 Shillings and 4 pence.

### Summary:

- 18th Century American Merchants were paid with "Country Pay," Paper Currency, Coins, and Credit.
- Rates of exchange were different in each location.
- Copper Halfpennies, their equivalents, counterfeits, and lower denomination Spanish Silver were used for most day to day purchases.
- For larger purchases, merchants used Promissory Notes, Credit, Bills of Credit and Foreign Gold & Silver coins.
- Merchants needed charts and guidebooks to help determine the value of gold and silver coins of other nations.

*SO, Compared to today, an 18th Century  
American Merchant had a real Dilemma on his hands*



1775 Portuguese "Half Joe" minted in Rio de Janeiro

### English Guinea:

- England 21 Shillings, 1766 Minted at the Tower Mint, London
- Obverse: Bust of King George III
- Reverse: Crowned British coat of arms



*"Coin of the Realm", Could not be legally exported to the American Colonies. The name alludes to the initial use of gold from the "Guinea" coast (Africa), provided by the Royal Africa Co.*

Official weight: 8.35 grams (5 dwt 9 gn) .917 gold

Value in PA: 1,15,0

Value in NY: 1,17,4

What an English Guinea could buy:

- 1 English Guinea (1,15,0 PA)
  - One pound of tea in Philadelphia, 1721
- 25 English Guineas (46,13,4 NY)
  - Rent for a house in NYC for one year, early 1770's
- 500 English Guineas (875,0,0 PA)
  - A crate of 200 pieces of glassware from Amsterdam, early 1700's

### French Guinea:

- France Louis D'or, 1727 Minted in Paris France
- Obverse: Draped bust of King Louis XV
- Reverse: Crown over two shields (united France)



#### *The French Equivalent to the English Guinea.*

Official weight: 8.15 grams (5 dwt 6 gn) .917 gold

Value in PA: 1,14,6

Value in NY: 1,16,4

What a French Guinea could buy:

- 1 French Guinea (1,14,6 PA)  
One hundred pounds of sugar in Philadelphia, 1721
- 2 French Guineas (3,9,0 PA)  
A gentleman's "smallsword", early 1700's
- 900 French Guineas (1552,10,0 PA)  
One 5 pound gold bar or Thirty 5 pound silver bars, early 1700's

### Moidore:

- Portugal 4000 Reis, 1716 Minted in Rio De Janeiro Brazil
- Obverse: Crowned Arms of John V
- Reverse: Cross of Jerusalem



*Also called a "Moeda" derived from the Portuguese "Moneda do Ouro" which translated is "gold Coin". Very important in international commerce in seaports of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.*

Official weight: 10.75 grams (6 dwt 22 gn) .917 gold

Value in PA: 2,5,0

Value in NY: 2,8,0

What a Moidore could buy:

- 1 Moidore (2,5,0 PA)

Three hundred pounds of tobacco in Philadelphia, 1719

- 4 Moidores (46,13,4 NY)

Average cost of an immigrants transatlantic passage in 1770

- 750 Moidores (1050,0,0 NY)

A crate of about 50 rugs from Turkey, early 1700's



### Johannes / Half Johannes:

- Portugal 12,800 Reis, 1732 Minted in Minas Gerais Brazil
- Obverse: Bust of King John V
- Reverse: Crowned shield of Arms



*More commonly called a "Joe" from the obverse inscription "Johannes" which is Latin for John (King John V of Portugal). The half "Joe" was the most commonly used gold coin in the late Colonial Era.*

Official weight: 28.68 grams (18 dwt 11 gn) .917 gold

Value in PA: 6,0,0

Value in NY: 6,8,0

What a Johannes could buy:

- 1 Johannes (6,0,0 PA)

A subsistence farmer's annual income, early 1700's

- 2 Johannes (12,0,0 PA)

Paid by a widow in Philadelphia to a Frenchman to teach her daughter French for two months, 1790's

- 200 Johannes (1200,0,0 PA)

A crate of 200 books from Europe, early 1700's

Doubloon:

- Spain 8 Escudos, 1775 Minted in Mexico City, Mexico
- Obverse: Bust of King Charles III
- Reverse: Crowned arms within the Order



*Minted in the "New World" for the Spanish Crown. Most were carried back to Spain aboard "Treasure Fleets".*

Official weight: 27.07 grams (17 dwt 10 gn) .901 gold

Value in PA: 5,12,0

Value in NY: 6,0,0

### What a Doubloon could buy:

- 1 Doubloon (6,0,0 NY)

Six cords of wood (one winter) in a large Boston house in 1775

- 100 Doubloons (600,0,0 NY)

550 barrels of Flour (Wholesale), 1751

- 100 Doubloons (600,0,0 PA)

A crate of 200 pieces of Pewterware from London, early 1700's

## Caroline:

- German State 1 Carolin, 1735 Minted in Wurttemberg (German State)
- Obverse: Armored bust of Karl Alexander
- Reverse: Crowned oval arms in cartouche



*Named after Karl (Carol in German) Alexander, Duke of Wurttemberg. Used by the British to pay Hessian mercenaries during the Revolutionary War. Not popular with merchants due to the low gold fineness (.770 vs .900+).*

Official weight: 9.70 grams (6 dwt 6 gn) .770 gold

Value in PA: 1,15,0

Value in NY: 1,16,0

What a Caroline could buy:

- 1 Caroline (1,16,0 NY)
  - A Blunderbuss Flintlock, early 1700's
- 2 Carolines (3,12,0 NY)
  - One year pay for a Hessian soldier during the Revolutionary War
- 3 Carolines (5,8,0 NY)
  - One Hundred pounds of cocoa in New York City, 1721

### French Pistole:

- France Louis D'or (lower weight than previous L D'or),  
1723 Minted in Nates, France
- Obverse: Bust (young) of King Louis XV
- Reverse: Two intertwined L's under a crown between two palms



*The French Equivalent to the Spanish Pistole.*

Official weight: 6.25 grams (4 dwt 0 gn) .917 gold

Value in PA: 1,7,0

Value in NY: 1,8,0

What a French Pistole could buy:

- 1 French Pistole (1,8,0 NY)

The cost of a gentleman's wig, early 1700's (A better quality could cost as much as 8 pistole)

- 10 French Pistole (14,0,0 NY)

A dairy cow, early 1700's

- 12,500 French Pistole (1750,0,0 NY)

A crate of 30 pieces of furniture from Paris, early 1700's

### Spanish Pistole:

- Spain 2 Escudos, 1741 Minted in Madrid, Spain
- Obverse: Armored bust of King Philip V
- Reverse: Crowned shield



*The name Pistole was given to an "old gold coin that varied in value from place to place". From Pistoia, Italy, birthplace of Pope Clement IX. The Spanish gold coin most encountered in America.*

Official weight: 6.77 grams (4 dwt 8 gn) .901 gold

Value in PA: 1,8,0

Value in NY: 1,10,0

What a Spanish Pistole could buy:

- 1 Spanish Pistole (1,10,0 NY)

A cask of "Red Letter" gun powder (the best quality), early 1700's

- 4 Spanish Pistole (5,12,40 PA)

Reward for the return of a runaway indentured servant, Chester PA, 1750

- 500 Spanish Pistole (750,0,0 NY)

A single bolt of silk, early 1700's



### English Crown:

- England 1 Crown, 1707 Minted in Edinburgh, Scotland
- Obverse: Draped bust of Queen Anne
- Reverse: Cross of four shields



*The name refers to the reverse design of Crown(s) surmounting the royal shield(s).*

Official weight: 30.1002 grams (19 dwt 8 gn) .925 silver

Value in PA: 0,8,4

Value in NY: 0,8,9

What an English Crown could buy:

- 1 English Crown (0,8,4 PA)  
A pair of Gentleman's wool breeches, early 1700's
- 1 English Crown (0,8,4 PA)  
Rent for a "comfortable" house in Philadelphia for one month, early 1770's  
(2 crowns were required during the war)
- 1 English Crown (0,8,4 PA)  
Two pints of American made whiskey

## **French Crown:**

- France 1 Ecu, 1775 Minted in Limoges, France
- Obverse: Bust of King Louis XVI
- Reverse: Crowned shield between laurel branches



*The French equivalent to the English Crown.*

Official weight: 29.488 grams (18 dwt 23 gn) .917 silver

Value in PA: 0,8,4

Value in NY: 0,8,9

What a French Crown could buy:

- 1 French Crown (0,8,4 PA)

A man's "simple" hat, early 1700's (2 crowns were required for a "plumed" hat)

- 1 French Crown (0,8,4 PA)

Two pounds of cotton in Boston, 1775

- 3 French Crowns (1,5,0 PA)

A pig, 1784 (8 crowns were needed for a full grown hogg)

## Spanish Dollar:

- Spain 1 dollar, 1768 Minted in Mexico City, Mexico
- Obverse: Two hemispheres suspended above the sea surmounted by a crown (Spain's dominion over the old and new worlds). Flanked by the pillars of Hercules, representing Gibraltar, gateway to the new world.
- Reverse: Crowned Spanish coat of arms



*The premier coin of the Atlantic world in the 17th and 18th centuries. Its prominence formed the basis of the US dollar.*

Official weight: 27.07 grams (17 dwt 10 gn) .917 silver

Value in PA: 0,7,6

Value in NY: 0,8,0

What a Spanish Dollar could buy:

- 1 Spanish Dollar (0,8,0 NY)  
Two Bushels of corn in Boston, 1775
- 1 Spanish Dollar (0,8,0 NY)  
A "simple" pair of shoes, early 1700's (3 Dollars were needed for a pair of good leather boots)
- 1 Spanish Dollar (0,8,0 NY)  
Admission for 2 to the John Street Theater (NYC) to see Shakespeare's "King Richard III", 1753

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## AN EARLY DIE STATE OF V.13-88CT

(Marc Mayhugh)

Hidden among the many spectacular high grade and high rarity Connecticut coppers in Ford IX, is a very interesting coin. It is Lot Number 510, a fairly low grade, low rarity piece. It is an example of a Connecticut-Machin's Mill mule known to Machin's collectors as Vlack 13-88CT and to Connecticut collectors as Miller 101-D. This coin is the result of a Connecticut 1788 reverse D being muled with Machin's obverse Vlack13. V13-88CT is generally rated with an R4 rarity, scarce but not rare.

This particular example is graded very good/fine and has a small clip. The interesting thing about this coin is that it does not seem to exhibit the characteristic reverse die break at "I" in LIB. If one looks at two other examples in the sale, lots 507 and 509, the die break is clearly evident on these, and therefore, casts questions on the striking sequence of these three coins, and others as well.

In short, Ford 510 appears to be a very rare, early die State of reverse D. Numismatic tradition has maintained that the Machin's/Connecticut mule V13-88CT was struck somewhere between the two Connecticut uses of the die (2-D and 16.1-D). This has been stated in many places but is most clearly and succinctly summarized in Tony Carlotto's excellent book on Vermont coppers. In explaining the striking sequence of the D reverse it is stated,

"Using V.13 with the Connecticut reverse D of 1788 makes another mule. It is known as 101-D in a Connecticut collection. Reverse D was used twice in the Connecticut series. The first time with obverse 2 and again with obverse 16.1. It is interesting to note that reverse D appears to be in late dies states in all three uses. Luckily there is enough die crack progression going on to trace a sequence. The order of emission is; First-Connecticut 2-D, second, 101-D/13-88 CT, and third and last, Connecticut 16.1 D. This is proved by the die progression. It is odd to note the use with a George III obverse between the use of the two Connecticut obverses."

These are all very good observations, but how does one explain the EDS Ford 510?

Jack Howes, in conjunction with C4, has produced a new, up-to-date set of plates called, *"Counterfeit English Halfpence struck in Early America: An Identification Guide to Atlee Family Types (Machin's Mills) – Version 2.0"*. [These plates are reproduced herein as a separate article – editor.] Under the notes for Group Three it states "1. Note the sequence of the use of Miller D reverse die. First used with Connecticut Miller 1788 2D, then Vlack (Machin's Mills) 13-88CT, and finally Miller 16.1D. This from progressive die breaks seen in later usage on 16.1-D." Two plates also appear under "Late Die States" showing reverse D with the caption "Connecticut Miller D reverse before and after 13-88CT." However, if these two photographs are compared with Ford 510 it is obvious that "both" were struck sometime after this coin and this is proven by the progression of the break off of "I".



I believe the striking sequence of reverse D needs to be reevaluated since Ford 510 looks as though it was struck not only before most all other examples of V.13-88CT, but before most, if not all examples of Miller 2.D as well. If that is the case, then V.13-88CT must have been struck first, then, following the progression noted by Carlotto, Miller 2 D, then 13-88CT again( ?), and finally M.16.1D. This interchanging of dies seems very strange, yet something along these lines must have occurred considering the early and late states of V.13-88CT.

It should be noted that other EDS examples of Connecticut reverse D turn up as Taylor 2102, and 2103. The clearest example I found being lot 1041 of the River Oaks & C.W. Krugjohann, part II sale. This coin is an absolutely exquisite, extremely fine example without a trace of a break on "I." It should also be noted that the following description is given under lot 356 of the New Netherlands 60<sup>th</sup> sale of a M. 16.1D: "This reverse die, here badly broken was used earliest with a Georgivs III Rex obverse, then with the above described obv.2, and lastly with this draped bust die." This is the only description I could find describing the striking sequence as such. Obviously, the author of this description had seen an EDS example of the V.13-88CT. reverse.

I would look forward to hearing any other theories on the striking sequence of the Connecticut reverse D.



## EBAY MACHIN'S MILL REPORT

(Marc Mayhugh)

As many colonial collectors may be aware, the ebay online auction site can provide a good source of information, material, and opportunity. While the collector may be forced to navigate a sea of copies, restrikes, foreign junk, and mediocre colonial coins offered at exorbitant prices, occasionally a nice piece can be added to one's collection, or even cherry-picked when listed in an obscure category. Then, at other times, a certain series may explode at the site with many rare or high-grade pieces being offered over a certain period of time. This is exactly what happened recently with the Machin's Mills Counterfeit British halfpenny series, also known as Atlee halfpence. During the period of late February through early April, 2006, a large and diverse group of these coins designated by Vlack numbers were offered at the ebay site. For those who may be interested, I have compiled a listing and brief review of some of these pieces.

Vlack 21-II-87D: Feb-22-06. Item number 83585168334. This coin offered by *flacoins* exhibited some pitting and a verdigris spot, yet it had excellent detail in the Very Fine range, with a particularly strong reverse. It sold for \$251.30 to a very knowledge and perennial ebayer.

Vlack 3-74 A: March-4-06. Item #8391532806. A nice coin in the Fine to Very Fine range sold by *Birk88*. The grainy image probably didn't help in selling the coin, but the rarity (R-5 to R-6), and the grade of the piece did. I'm sure the seller, who failed to realize this was a Machin's Mills piece, and instead listed it as a 1774 British halfpenny, was very pleasantly surprised when it realized \$622.12

Vlack 19-87C: Item # 8396305509: A nice high-grade piece with choice color and a few light marks. This coin first appeared graded VF 25, in a NGC slab and was quickly withdrawn. It later resurfaced and was graded by the seller, *mydogsplat* at XF 45. The sale finally ended on March 26 and realized \$738.00.

The following coins were offered by the seller *world-coin* and represented a fairly large collection of Machins Mills pieces. The seller informed me that he knew little of the collection, only that he purchased it from a Florida dealer. It contained some very nice material that would have taken some time and care to assemble. Many of the pieces were slabbed. I have listed these coins using the Vlack sequence of dates.

Vlack 1-47A: graded VG10 by NGC. This coin ended on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, receiving 21 bids, and realizing \$538.00. It appeared to be a very nice low-grade piece and sold to a bidder who frequently shows up on nice material.

Vlack 3-71B: Two examples of this variety appeared from this seller, both with damage. One piece with light brown color and a couple of reverse cuts brought \$237.83, while another grading slightly better, but darker, with nicks and a larger edge cut, sold for \$154.00

Vlack 6-72B: Two examples of this very rare variety (R-6) were offered. The first was a low-grade and scratched piece which and sold for \$180.00. The second piece was slabbed as VF20 by NGC and was the highlight of the *world-coin* sales. The coin received 20 bids and sold at \$2,938.98

Vlack 4-75A: This Rarity 4 Machin's Mill piece appeared to grade around fine with nice brown color. This coin inexplicably had a reserve which was not reached. The bidding ended at \$260.00. Later the piece was re-listed (ending April19), apparently with a lower reserve, and sold for \$240.00

Vlack 6-76A: Two examples of this variety also appeared; one started on March 21<sup>st</sup> and the other on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Both examples were graded by the seller as Choice Very Fine. The first realized \$343.88, while the latter sold for \$288.99, indicating that the buyers may not have agreed with the sellers grade. Choice VF examples of this variety usually bring much higher prices.

Vlack 11-78A: A very nice coin slabbed as EF by NGC. The selling price was \$798.00.

Vlack 17-87C: Another nice coin graded XF 45 by NGC. It received 18 bids and sold for \$898.00 to a knowledgeable collector.

Vlack 19-87C: This is another case where two examples of the same variety were offered. One piece was graded fine, conservative in my opinion, but was rather porous. It sold for \$263.00. The other piece was slabbed by, you guessed it, NGC, and was a nice brown color. It sold for \$421.69.

Vlack 13- 88CT: A rare mule which combines a Machin's Mills obverse with a Connecticut reverse (D). This coin had a few light obverse scratches but great color according to the image. The seller graded it Ch VF, which was perhaps a tad optimistic for the reverse. A nice coin overall which was reflected in the bidding, receiving 13 bids, and selling for \$741.00.

This concludes the Atlee halfpence offered by *world-coin*; however, this firm also offered some choice counterfeit British halfpennies, thought by many to be of American manufacture:

Vlack 14-84A: Technically this is not a Machin's Mills piece, even though it has its own Vlack number. A controversial coin that some claim to be American made due to it's crudeness, while others contend the coin could have been minted anywhere. The seller gives the coin and overall grade of fine although he is of the opinion that parts grade VF-EF. Always a favorite among collectors, it received 8 bids and sold for \$1,602.77.

Vlack 21-II-87D-II: This coin, graded and slabbed as VF30, sold quickly for \$1,495 with the "Buy it now" option. The buyer probably needed this variety for his collection and/or thought it may have been undergraded:



Thus concludes the nice run of Atlee halfpence offered on Ebay earlier this year.



## C4 LIBRARY NEWS

Thank You to all for your donations to the C4 Library. Your contributions are appreciated by all C4 members. Below are new items donated to the club which are now available for loan to all C4 members. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org).

### Books & Newsletters:

Marsh, John, *Clip a Bright Guinea – The Yorkshire Coiners of the Eighteenth Century*, London GB, 1971 (Donated by Mike Ringo)

Moore, Roger A., *Roger Siboni's Beach Coin Symposium*, Transcription of tapes, Plates and Photographs of the meeting, 27 August 2005, in Mantoloking NJ (Donated by Roger Moore)

Colonial Newsletter: Issue #130, April 2006 (Donated by the American Numismatic Society)

Penny Wise - The Newsletter of the Early American Coppers Club. The library is now receiving a complimentary subscription for all future issues. The library has some past issues of Penny Wise. We are currently taking donations of past (pre-2006) EAC Penny Wise Newsletters. If you have any original copies you wish to donate, please write or e mail me so that we can avoid having duplicates.

### Auction Catalogs (Donated by the auction company unless otherwise stated):

Stacks – John J. Ford Jr. *Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XIII (French Colonial Coins and Tokens, Betts Medals: Part 1)*, 16 January 2006, New York NY (hard bound copy)

Stacks – *The DR. Alfred R. Globus Collection of World Coins*, 7 March 2006, New York NY

**NOTE:** Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. My email is:

Leo\_J\_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at [REDACTED].





### **Classified Ads**

With our new format, prices for varying size classified ads are being assessed, and will be established by the time of the next C4 Newsletter. All members will continue to have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines of text.



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Reply to to mkringo@aol.com, or mail hard copies to Mike Ringo, [REDACTED]



Thanks to an ANS grant I am working on a study of circulating coins and currencies of the French and Indian Wars period (1689-1763). I would be very grateful for information on any American and Canadian metal detector finds dating to this period as well as any coins in collections that have find provenances attached to them. Contact: Oliver D. Hoover, [REDACTED]  
Email: [oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca](mailto:oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca)



**LORD BALTIMORE COINAGE** - I am collecting data on Lord Baltimore coinage for a book to be published by C4. If you are fortunate enough to have any examples of original coins (shilling, sixpence, groat or denarium) please send me any of the following information you can: denomination, variety, weight in grains, condition and reverse die alignment. I would also appreciate any recent provenance information, so I do not count the same coin twice! Ownership information will remain confidential. Thank you!

Lou Jordan, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] or e-mail: [ljordan@nd.edu](mailto:ljordan@nd.edu)



Wanted to buy: One example of the SILVER medal issued in conjunction with the first C4 Convention, held in 1994. Please contact me either via email at; [cmcdon0923@aol.com](mailto:cmcdon0923@aol.com) or via snail mail at; Craig McDonald [REDACTED]



Barry Tayman and I, under a grant from the ANS, are working on a monograph on Canadian Blacksmith tokens. We are seeking information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.  
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FOR SALE: CD, Special Edition 5.0, High-resolution digital images of my reference collection of Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish 1/2d & 1/4d, well over 1,000 different specimens. Organized by Major Type, Date and Families where appropriate, with additional material on Major Errors and Die Breaks...\$55 post paid. Registered buyers, if you'd like, will be added to a distribution list that will receive updates by email with images attached of new specimens of major varieties and Families as they are identified. For more information, see [http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits\\_page3.html](http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits_page3.html)

Clem Schettino, [REDACTED]  
copperclem@comcast.net

**C4 Offers New Vlack Book on French Colonial Coins.** The third monograph published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) has just been released, *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas* by the noted numismatist Robert A. Vlack. This is the first comprehensive guide to the billon coinage that circulated in the French colonies of the Americas, which included Canada, Louisiana and the French West Indies. An 18-page introduction discusses the history of the coins and includes a rarity listing of the various counterstamped billon coins authorized for use in Canada during the seventeenth century. This is followed by an extensive and well-illustrated catalogue of the coins (pp. 20-157) reflecting over thirty years of research by Vlack on this topic. The catalog proceeds from the *Mosquetaires* of 30 and 15 *deniers* to the billon *Sous Marqués* and Half-*Sous Marqués* and then to contemporary counterfeits. It next includes a full listing of billon coinage and counterstamped billon coins of the French West Indies, as well as a discussion of the coins known as "black dogs." The work was amended and edited by Philip L. Mossman with typesetting and graphic design by Gary Trudgen.

In the catalogue every denomination is divided into sections, one section for each of the various French mints producing that denomination; some denominations were issued from as many as thirty different mints! Each mint section contains an explanation of all the mintmasters and engravers associated with that mint during the years of issue. The specific coins from the mint are then cataloged by year with annotations on mintage, rarity and variants. There are numerous illustrations with enlarged details of overdates and errors that are especially useful to the user in identification. This is the first time such information has been made available in English.

The folio size hardcover book (x+157 pp.) is available for \$50.00 US plus \$5.00 for shipping (\$6.50 to Canada and \$13.50 to Europe) from Ray Williams, [REDACTED]



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1652 Willow Tree shilling. Noe 3-D, R-7+, XF. NGC/NCS \$150K (call or write)  
1652 Pine Tree three pence, Noe 37, Small 5, Nice Sharp XF/AU coin. Original luster of  
russet, smoky blue and grey. Red Book list \$8K – only \$6,500.

- 1688 American Plantations Token. Original, near uncirculated, minimal tin test. Newman 4-E (original – no die cracks). Full detail . . . \$1,750.
- 1670 St. Patrick Farthing, AU/UNC w/razor sharp details – every jewel on crown, harpstrings are extra bold. Mostly smooth and glossy with green patina, like Roman coin. NGC/NCS genuine w/corrosion; X-rare (R7+), slight rub. . . \$5,950.
- 1694 Elephant Token, Thick Planchet. XF, smooth glossy light brown. Super eye appeal . . . \$1,500
- 1722 Wood's halfpenny, harp left. Scarce, smooth and glossy, just super. PCGS VF-35, only \$550
- 1724 Woods halfpenny; PCGS XF-45, Super. Scarce. . . \$750
- 1723 Rosa Americana twopence. AU, light/medium brown. Nelson 14. Centuries old scratch hidden under patina. Nice . . . \$1,250
- 1766 Pitt Token. Rarely for sale. XF, near perfect. . . \$2,500
- 1778 Rhode Island Ship Token without wreath. XF/AU Again, rarely for sale. . . \$1,950
- 1794 Myddleton Token Mule (Breen 1077). 1800s restrike, X-rare. NGC Proof 64 Gem Cameo. Beautiful strike & complicated design. Exceptional Finest? \$17,500
- 1787 NY Excelsior, Eagle's Head Right ("Sinister Eagle"). R-7 (Breen: "X-rare, virtually all specimens low grade and damaged.") Just misses XF (VF-35); NGC/NCS Corroded VF. Strong overall detail despite minor problems. Light, scattered granularity near rim. Still good eye appeal – probably #2 coin. 90% smooth and glossy with hints of mint red. \$25,000
- 1787 Immunis Columbia, Eagle Reverse. VF-25 (Gem circulated). Perfectly smooth and glossy. A delight. . . \$3,800
- 1787 Fugio, N-10-T. "One over One" variety (R6, 12-30 known). Fine+, smooth with minor reverse scratch. . . \$1,500
- 1787 Fugio, N-22-M. (R5, 30+ known) VF/XF. Very light, even graininess on both sides – Nice . . . \$1,250 [Other Fugios if interested.]
- 1786 NJ "Bridle Variety", Maris 18-M. Super wide planchet, nice light brown. UNC with best of strikes. NGC Genuine – superb coin on all levels. Bridle very clear. Only \$5,600
- 1788 NJ "Running Fox" Maris 78-DD VF/XF (R5+; 30+ known). Smooth and glossy with strong fox. R.B. lists at \$4K, only \$2,950 [Other NJ coppers if interested.]
- 1795 NY TAL. Looks proof with concentric rings (coloration) from scraper/smoothen used in proof preparation. MS(PF)-65 or better with razor sharp light brown iridescence. I've found no reference to 1795 proof but this has clearly been prepared as one. . . \$4,500
- 1783 Chalmer's or Annapolis six pence. Period after Large date (NOT 17.83). Breen 1014. Extra rare (R8!) Only 2<sup>nd</sup> known according to Breen. Garrett Coin VF. This one AU. Well centered and struck. Clasped hands visible (only one as such). Possible small repair near rim reduces price from \$200K to \$49,500
- 1787 Auctori Plebis AU-50+ Smooth and Glossy. Light golden brown. Mark free super coin with mint luster. R.B. list \$2,200, but only \$1,750
- 1783 Chalmer's shilling (12 pence). Breen 1011. Short worm. PCGS VF-25. Mark free original; nice with somewhat heavy original toning, only \$3,700
- ND Washington Success Token VG+/- with hole . . . \$99



- 1783 Washington & Independence. PGGs AU-55. Light brown, glossy with mint luster. Rare full strike. Extra choice. Lists \$1,750; however, only \$1,450
- 1783 Washington Ship halfpenny. PCGS XF-40 (old lime green holder). Lovely and problem free. List \$750, but only \$675.
- 1783 Georgivs Trivmpho. PCGS VF-20. A pleasant, problem free example of a "tougher type". . . \$550
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- 1781 Libertas Americana (Betts 615). An American classic, personally commissioned/ designed by Ben Franklin. Fewer than 100 struck with only a handful of survivors. The "queen" of American Medals from which the Large cent and halfcent designs sprang. 47.88mm; XF with a few hairlines and ticks. Own a legend not for \$20K but for only \$6,900
- 1797 Washington President U.S. (Baker 70-C) R7, x-rare. 54mm, bronze. Baker: "Classic and most important Washington Medal." UNC, Prooflike with phenomenal rich mahogany toning. Super eye appeal. . . (ask)
- 1817 James Monroe Indian Peace Medal (Julian IP-8). 76mm; bronze. UNC with slightest cabinet rub. Fantastic Orange/Bronze. Great eye appeal. Inexpensive and very rare. Only \$1,750
- 1786 Vermont "Baby Head," RR-9; VF30. Exceptionl surfaces for type – hard, smooth, glossy. Lists at \$5,600, only \$2,500.
- 1786 Vermontensium, RR-6; XF+ detail. Typical Vermont planchet problems. Bold sun face, etc. Near Decent. List \$3,700, only \$995.
- 1787 Vermont Bust Right, RR-27, XF/AU. Choice surfaces, exceptional. Date fully on planchet. List \$2,250, only \$1,750.
- 1787 NJ Serpent Head M-54K, VF25. Planchet flaws. List \$1,800, only \$950.
- 1778 RI Ship, w/o wreath, Sharp AU. "Vlugtende" partly visible! Underpriced: \$2,900.

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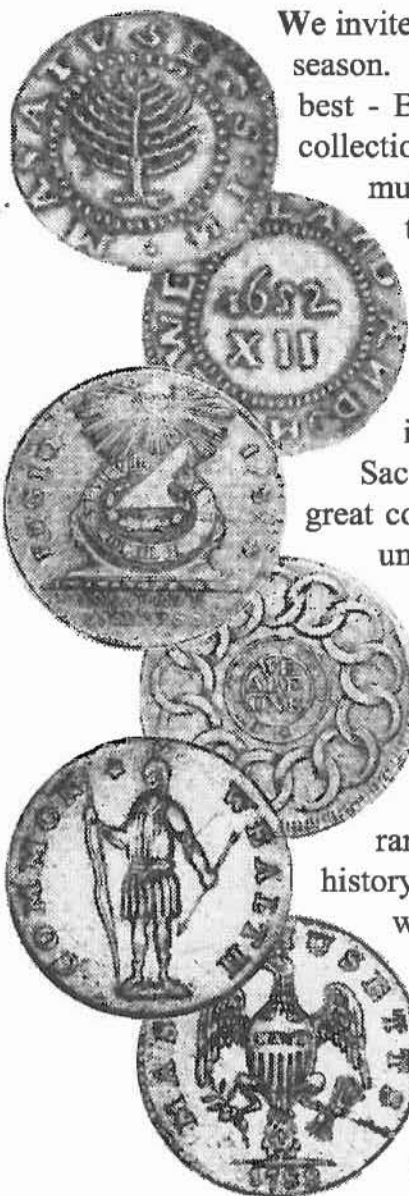
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